FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2005

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PHOTOS: Available at http://dailyheadlines.uark.edu/

GARRISON FAMILY ESTABLISHES FINANCE CHAIR IN WALTON COLLEGE;
TAKES CAMPAIGN OVER CHALLENGE GOAL

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – Six members of the Garrison family have pledged $2 million to help build a comprehensive and nationally competitive financial services industry in the state of Arkansas. Their gift will fund a chair in the finance department of the Sam M. Walton College of Business, University of Arkansas.

The Garrisons’ gift takes the University of Arkansas Campaign for the Twenty-First Century over the $300 Million Challenge, the effort to match a $300 million challenge grant from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation. As of April 30, 2005, the Campaign total stands at $930.5 million in gifts and pledges.

Professor Wayne Y. Lee will be the first holder of the Garrison Chair in Finance.

Daniel and Julianna Garrison, Thomas (Tom) and Natalie Garrison, and William (Will) Garrison and his fiancée Joana Heimel have pledged combined resources of $2 million. Their gift will be matched by $2 million from funds available through the University of Arkansas Matching Gift Program to create a $4 million endowment. The Garrison Chair in Finance will
support investment research and fund the creation of the Garrison Financial Institute, which was approved by the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees on April 22 and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education on April 29.

The Matching Gift Program, made possible by the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation’s $300 million gift to the U of A in 2002, supports selected academic positions in fields that have the greatest potential for enhancing economic competitiveness and quality of life in Arkansas and elevating the university to international prominence.

UA Chancellor John A. White said, “This is a wonderful example of a family coming together to help the university build a nationally competitive, student-centered research university serving Arkansas and the world. We appreciate the leadership and generosity of the Garrison family in supporting the creation of the Garrison Financial Institute. We are also pleased that this gift marks the achievement of another key milestone in our Campaign for the Twenty-First Century meeting the $300 Million Challenge.”

Walton College Dean Doyle Z. Williams said, “This amazing gift will enable the Walton College to serve as a foundation and a catalyst to support Arkansas’ financial services industry with investment research, a personal finance program and highly qualified talent. We are deeply grateful to all of the Garrisons for their support.”

“Thereir gift carries on a family tradition of major investment in higher education. In 2002, their father, Walton College alumnus Sheridan Garrison, provided the funds for the Garrison Chair in Supply Chain Management in the college,” Williams added. Sheridan Garrison founded American Freightways Inc. at Harrison, Ark., in 1982, and the company was purchased by FedEx Corp. in February 2001.

G. David Gearhart, vice chancellor for University Advancement, said: “This is outstanding news for us on the heels of two major announcements in the month of April. We are thankful to the Garrisons for their commitment to the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century and for securing the $300 Million Challenge. The Challenge has been a monumental undertaking but at the same time has been a key ingredient to reaching toward $1 billion. We are most grateful to the Walton family for issuing this challenge and are most pleased it has been met ahead of schedule. Many thanks to the generous support from alumni, friends, corporations and foundations that have helped us raise the $300 million match.”
The Garrison Financial Institute will house three new centers in the Walton College: an Investment and Research Center, a Trading Center and a Personal and Family Finance Center. All of the centers will provide opportunities for scholarship, research and community outreach activities by the faculty, staff and students in partnership with individuals and businesses in the state of Arkansas.

Lee, who is also chair of the finance department and holder of the Alice L. Walton Chair in Finance, said, “I am very excited to have this opportunity to create an intellectual, knowledge and financial resource base for faculty, staff and students as well as individuals and businesses in state. These centers will have distinct, but complementary missions.”

Daniel Garrison is retired from American Freightways Inc.; Tom Garrison, is chairman and CEO of Garrison Financial Corp., a holding company for Garrison Financial Advisors Inc., based in Fayetteville; and William Garrison is retired as chief operating officer of American Freightways Inc. in 2002.

The Investment and Research Center will provide fee-based investment consulting and research services to industry. As a start, the center will provide consulting services – conceptualizing, developing and simulating investment strategies, which can be used in the actual management of a hedge fund that will be created and principally managed by Garrison Financial Advisors. For these services, the center will receive a consulting fee based on funds under management. The hedge fund will begin initially with $6 million, but is expected to grow significantly when Garrison Financial Advisors markets the fund to accredited investors.

The Trading Center will manage the operations of Walton College’s three student-managed funds. Funding for this center will come from industry sponsorships through gifts and annual memberships. A special trading floor facility for the educational activities involved in these funds will be housed in the new Graduate School of Business building, Willard J. Walker Hall, scheduled to be completed in 2007. The three fund classes available to Walton College students are: the Rebsamen Trust (equity) portfolio management class, the Arvest Bank Group fixed income portfolio management class and the Shollmier MBA Investment management class.

The Personal and Family Finance Center is being created in response to a growing concern about the level of knowledge needed to manage personal finances resulting from the confluence of three factors: an expansion of credit availability, changes in retirement funding that make consumers more responsible for their long-term security, and a marked increase in the number of
financial service providers and complexity of products they provide. These trends directly affect the quality of life for Arkansan households.

Lee added, “A more financially educated population in Arkansas has important macroeconomic implications not only for market efficiency, but also for its economic development and growth.”

There will be a grant request to a public trust agency, with a clearly defined mandate to spend its considerable resources on personal financial education in all states, to fund the Personal and Family Finance Center.


Daniel Garrison is an alumnus of the University of Arkansas and continues to be an avid supporter of the Razorbacks. He spent his entire career working for American Freightways and is now retired and living in Texas. Julianna Johnson Garrison grew up in Dallas, attended Tarrant County Community College, and served as human resource director of Attention Medical. She has supported Paws Across Texas, an organization that uses specially trained dogs to help nursing home patients.

Tom Garrison, a 1982 accounting graduate of the Walton College, retired from FedEx Freight East in November 2002, where he was previously president and CEO. He serves on the Walton College Dean’s Executive Advisory Board and was recognized by the accounting department as the outstanding alumni in 2001. Tom, Natalie and their daughter Sarah reside in Fayetteville and support various charitable organizations primarily in Northwest Arkansas.
Will Garrison is an alumnus of the University of Arkansas. After retiring from American Freightways as chief operating officer, he has been involved in various business ventures in Northwest Arkansas. He currently resides in Fayetteville with his son David. Joana Ruth Heimel lives in Siloam Springs with her two children Travis and Leanna. She plans to become more involved in environmental issues and study writing. The couple will marry in June.

Lee added, “It is interesting to note that the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas has its AIM Investment Center, created by a gift from founders of Houston-based AIM Management Group fund advisors, which supports an MBA student-managed limited partnership hedge fund. This MBA Investment fund was initially started in 1994 with $1.4 million, and currently has 65 accredited investors with $13 million under management. We will be starting at 50 percent of the current value of this fund.”

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